

PRIZE AWARDS FOR FIVE BEST ARTICLES ON GARDENING

PROVIDE PRODUCE PACKAGES EARLY.

Observations by members of the extension staff at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that the current season is to be a record one for all kinds of farm produce, including fruit, vegetables and other crops.

In view of this fact a forethoughtful policy on the part of farmers in the matter of providing for containers and packages of various kinds is advised. Box factories and manufacturers of other packages are reported to be receiving orders now for consideration. As a matter of fact, the supply of the package supply is in the winter or early spring while other work is not pressing, and it is not too late yet to insure against worry over a package scarcity later in the season. This advice applies to the season especially to peach growers.

In some cases where labor is available it will be cheaper to make receptacles at the farm, and this work should not be postponed too long.

CROPS NOT AFFECTED BY MOON.

Scientists are now convinced that the moon has no more influence on crops than it has upon the temperature or the amount of rain or the winds or any other weather element. The growth of plants depends upon the amount of food in the soil and in the air that is available for them and upon temperature, light and moisture. The moon obviously does not affect the character of the soil in any way, neither does it affect the composition of the atmosphere. The only remaining way in which it could influence plant growth, therefore, is by its light. Recent experiments, however, show that full daylight is about 600,000 times brighter than full moonlight, yet when a plant gets 1-100th part of normal daylight it thrives little better than in absolute darkness. If 100th part of normal daylight is thus too little to stimulate a plant, it seems quite certain that a 600,000th part cannot have any effect at all. It is therefore a mere waste of time to think about the moon in connection with the planting of crops. The moon, say the scientists, has nothing more to do with this than it does with the building of fences, the time for killing hogs or any other of the innumerable things over which it is supposed to exert a strong influence.

Notwithstanding the reports of sci-

THE CLIPPER

There are three things that are essential to a successful garden: soil, water and light. The Clipper is a small, portable, and efficient device for watering plants. It is made of brass and is easy to use. It is sold by the Sun Company, New York.

SNAPDRAGON PLANTS

For immediate or later delivery. New varieties of snapdragons. White, yellow, and three shades of pink. Includes my famous "Sun" snapdragon. Sold by the Sun Company, New York.

GLADIOLI

ORDER GLADIOLI dahlias, roses, phloxes, peonies, nursery stock, etc. Send for catalogue of these and many other plants. M. S. PERKINS & CO., Danvers, Mass.

FOR SALE

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, all or part of one of the finest apple orchards in Bedford County. Sold to secure division among partners. 3,000 apple and peach trees. 300 bearing apple trees. Produced 4,000 bushels last year. Fine opening for anyone seeking good beautiful location and investment. Will double in value in few years. New House and fair buildings. Pure spring water. Good hunting range. Excellent prospects for big crop this year. No agents. Address: J. B. Box 118 Sun.

STERLING VASES

Keep plants flourishing in dryest weather. Watering necessary only in two weeks. Cost no more than ordinary vases. The only satisfactory vase for lawns and cemeteries. Find out about it. Ask for Catalogue. The Sterling Grinding Wheel Co., Tiffin, Ohio, U. S. A.

entire, the most successful gardeners we ever saw were those who, as a rule, considered the right place of the moon.

Naturalists who have been favored in pots in the house should be added to the garden. They will not produce flowers again in the house.

STATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

The object of the New York State School of Agriculture on Long Island is to teach in a thoroughly practical and scientific way all subjects pertaining to farming and home making and in the advancement of country life. The work given at the school will be responsive to local conditions, although general instruction in agriculture will be given. Students will be permitted to specialize during the latter part of the course.

The work will be such as to qualify city boys and girls, as well as boys and girls already residing in the country, for productive occupations. The work will appeal to many boys and girls who have no desire or intention of taking a high school or college course, but who wish to get information that can be applied at once on the farm and in the home.

The authorities of the school have no ambition to make the institution a college. The institution will not be a preparatory school for colleges and universities, but will be a finishing school in itself. The subjects to be taught will be determined by the requirements of the student's chosen occupation, and not by the entrance requirements set forth by colleges and universities.

MAKING LIME-SULPHUR CONCENTRATE.

It is of relatively little importance except for economy in storage space how dense or heavy a concentrated solution is made, because it can readily be diluted in conformity with the purpose for which it is to be used. To do this a Baume hydrometer is used, the stem of which has a graduated scale. When the hydrometer is introduced into the concentrated lime-sulphur, it will sink to a certain depth, according to the density of the liquid. In the experiments conducted it was found the Baume hydrometer should register 33 to 34 degrees in the highly concentrated solution, as later here described. A great variation in density, from 25 to 31 degrees, of the ordinary home made product was recorded in the experiments, where the usual 50-100-50 formula was used. The amount of sediment left from the lime and sulphur varied widely, 35 to 50 per cent.

Making Concentrated Lime-Sulphur on a Small Scale.

One of the home made cooking plants used in the experiments consisted of a 12 horse-power boiler from which steam was conducted into two fifty gallon barrels. No coils were used in the bottom of the barrel, the steam being emitted through the open end of a straight pipe extending within a few inches of the bottom of the barrel. Small batches of the 50-100-50 formula, amounting to about 100 pounds, were used. The product was cooked at a time. About twenty gallons of water were put into the barrel, the steam was turned on and the water brought to the boiling point. The time was then put in and after it had begun to sizzle the sulphur was added. The mixture was stirred thoroughly throughout the time of cooking, which lasted an hour. It was allowed to settle about twelve hours and then the clear solution was siphoned off. The sludge or sediment was put into a cinder press and the residue was used for fuel. In these experiments commercial ground sulphur and a good grade of lime were used.

Highly Concentrated Solution.

A highly concentrated solution may be made by using the lime and sulphur at the ratio of 1 to 2, but with reduced quantities of water. The formula used in some of the commercial lime-sulphur manufacturing plants is 80 pounds of fresh stone lime, 160 pounds of commercial ground sulphur and water to make 50 gallons of the finished product. Solutions prepared by this formula should test on an average of 33 to 34 degrees Baume, as explained above, and there is about 50 per cent. in volume of sludge after allowing the solution to settle for twenty-four hours. There is only about 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. in volume of insoluble materials.

Commercial ground sulphur may be purchased in car lots for about \$1.50 per 100 pounds, and lime at about 60 cents per barrel, making the cost of the highly concentrated solution, estimating 40 cents per barrel of 50 gallons.

This does not include wear on outfit and cost of containers for storing. At the prices of the ingredients

mentioned above the high test concentrate would cost about 98 cents more per barrel than the low test concentrate made by the 50-100-50 formula.

THE YARETA, OR VEGETABLE SHEEP.

Prof. Irving W. Bailey, who resided at Arequipa, Peru, recently sent to the Missouri Botanical Garden for identification a dried specimen of a very curious plant which is known by the native Peruvians as yareta, or "vegetable sheep." The plant grows abundantly among rocks at high altitudes along the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, where it constitutes a conspicuous feature in the landscape because of its peculiar manner of growth in developing its cushion formation.

Similar compact masses of plant growth are frequently found on high mountains, as well as in arctic and antarctic regions, such, for example, are the relatively small clumps or cushions of *Diaperia lapponica* on the alpine summits of New England and in northern Europe, also several of the saxifrages in the Rocky Mountains and the "vegetable sheep," *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, of New Zealand, but nowhere in the world are known to occur such huge masses as are developed by the yareta of the Andes and by other members of this genus in the Far East.

February Prizes.

First Prize, Elizabeth Helen Graham, 240 Central avenue, Cohoes, N. Y.
Second Prize, W. L. McKay.
Third Prize, H. L. Olson, 18 Creighton street, Providence, R. I.
Fourth Prize, Thomas J. Walsh, Lyndhurst, N. J.
Fifth Prize, George C. Rothstein, 11 Elmwood street, Woodhaven, N. Y.

March Prizes.

First Prize, Susan P. Oke, Washington, D. C.
Second Prize, Helen Ingersoll, Briar Hill, N. Y.
Third Prize, Grace F. Andrews, 54 Clark avenue, Chelsea, Mass.
Fourth Prize, Mrs. M. B. Thorp, 85 Edgelynn terrace, Yonkers, N. Y.
Fifth Prize, Mrs. O. Mahony, Athens, Tenn.

April Prizes.

First Prize, Charles S. Taylor, Deep River, Conn.
Second Prize, Emile R. Walter, Richville, N. Y.
Third Prize, M. S. Duncan, 1410 Union street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Fourth Prize, Mrs. Frank R. Mitchell, Southold, N. Y.
Fifth Prize, M. E. Main, Westbury, R. I.

ANOTHER FERTILIZING SUGGESTION.

The preparation of a garden so as to get the best results is absolutely necessary that the soil should be broken up as thoroughly as possible, the finer the particles can be made the better. This pulverizing will give the air free passage to the surface upon which the various agencies, moisture, heat, light and air, can act.

Constant tillage during the growing season is also essential, never let your soil form a hard surface crust, as it prevents the air from reaching the ground and thereby retards the growth of the plants.

The presence of humus in the soil in the shape of well rotted horse manure that has been pulverized is of great assistance in the prevention of surface crusting. The natural manure being largely humus (decayed vegetable matter) is of vital importance in maintaining and increasing the fertility of the soil.

Humus is essential to plant growth, and the action of the growing moisture holding, heat, light and penetration of the roots is greatly influenced by it. The mechanical cultivation of the ground is more easily accomplished where humus predominates. All the plant food, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash are offered to the growing plants in the form of leguminous plants. It is conceded by all growers that rotted horse manure is invaluable in properly preparing the soil when a garden is contemplated, to insure good results.

Gladioli are so easy to raise and so valuable for cut flowers that gardeners should plant them liberally, particularly as the bulbs have never been so cheap as they are this year. Large sized bulbs are offered at leading nurseries for half the usual price, and less. No other flowers will last longer after cutting than gladioli.

Beautiful stocky bedding and vegetable plants are offered by dealers at very attractive prices.

It pays to put up a good serviceable portable trellis for flower and vegetable plants. While they may cost somewhat more than wire netting or other temporary work the first season, in the long run the cost will be less, as these trellises can be taken down, stored and used year after year for years. They are much nearer in appearance than temporary work and in future seasons will look as well as when new.

In the early spring of 1915 a tree expert was employed to examine a cut leaf birch for borers and any other insects that might be found. The report was that the tree was practically free from insects of all kinds. This spring the tree was cut down owing to the borer, and the borer was found. Nearly every limb had been bored through the center for great lengths and for more than two years the tree had been the subject of vicious attacks by cut worms. Moral: Do not rely always upon the reports or advice of tree experts.

PRIZE AWARDS.

Fifteen dollars worth of seeds, plants or trees, selected at retail prices from the catalogue of any dealer advertising in this Sun, were offered during the month of February.

Ten dollars worth of goods of the same kind was offered for the second article, \$7.50 for the third and \$5 each for the fourth and fifth articles in point of merit. In our judgment the offer was repeated for the months of March and April. The following awards have been made:

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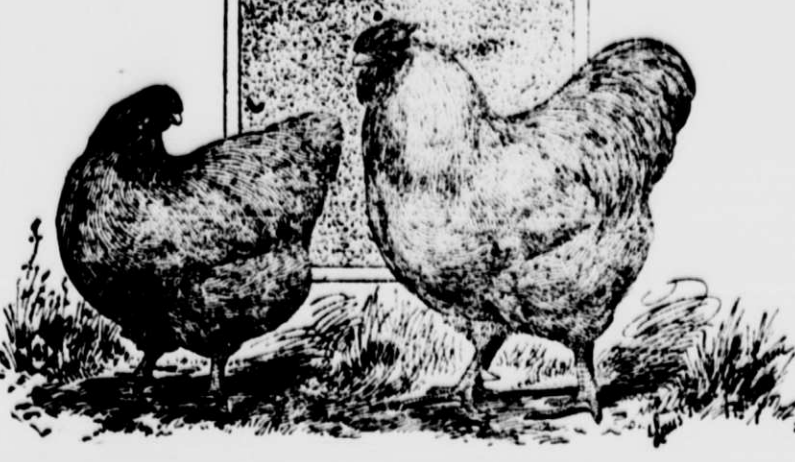
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POULTRY NOTES

ROSE COMB BUFF ORPINGTONS



HATCHING BY HENS IS PROFITABLE NOW

May Is Good Month in Which to Make Return to Nature's Method.

WARM WEATHER HELPFUL

By A. C. SMITH.

Experience has convinced the most observing students of poultry culture that artificially reared chicks do not do as well in warm weather as those brooded by natural methods. With the latter man has had but little to do. He has made an improvement on prehistoric systems of incubation, excepting that he may hatch when he will and almost without restriction as to numbers. Even this statement must be modified, because though eggs may be incubated, it is quite another and more complicated matter to hatch a satisfactory percentage during the off season.

Accepting the fact commonly admitted by experienced poultry raisers that there is a marked difference in the production of chicks during the warm summer months of June and July, it means that the hen must set in May. Here we have a happy coincidence, because May is the month when most of the hens become broody, having laid for two and a half or three months. Healthy hens that are set in May or early June usually lay well during the latter part of the season. There can be no doubt that the production is much more certain under these conditions than during the colder weather, even from the best managed flocks.

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the merits of the various methods of hatching, but to point out the advantages of the natural method. It is manifestly no disadvantage and in most cases a distinct advantage to allow the hen to take nature's way of rearing her chicks. The hen is not only a more certain producer, but she is also a more certain producer of healthy chicks. The natural method is also a more certain producer of healthy chicks. The natural method is also a more certain producer of healthy chicks.

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POULTRY DIRECTORY

The First Three Weeks

is the critical period of a chick's life. Don't experiment—use

Pratts' Baby Chick Food

25c, 50c and \$1.00

Greater money and chick saver on the market. One trial and you will never be without it. Makes bones and muscles and protects from bowel trouble. Try Pratts' baby chick food and see all your chicks. Refuse substitutes; insist on Pratts.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Back

Get Pratts' Baby Chick Food

See, Feed and Poultry Supply Dealers in New York and vicinity.

7,167 Eggs

A DAY'S EGG YIELD ON

Ranocan, the "Million Egg Farm"

On this ideal farm every hen receives careful individual attention. Many of our yards are made and our output of eggs from the world's finest laying strains are sold for hatching.

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